

April 25, 1865.

Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S., in the Chair.

A letter was read from Professor William Nation, of Lima, Peru, in reference to certain specimens of Reptiles intended to be transmitted to the Society's Menagerie.

A letter was read from Mr. W. Alford Lloyd, describing the new Aquarium-house lately erected in the Zoological Society's Gardens at Hamburg, and the improved system of management of Aquaria pursued in that establishment.

Mr. Sclater exhibited a collection of birdskins formed by the Society's Corresponding Member, M. Adolph Boucard, in the vicinity of Vera Cruz, Mexico, in November 1864, being the first results of this gentleman's new expedition to that country. The collection contained examples of thirty species, amongst which were two which had not before come under Mr. Sclater's notice in Mexican collections. These were—

1. *Lophophanes atricristatus* (Cassin), Baird's B. A. p. 385, originally described from Texas, and

2. *Ædicnemus bistriatus*, Wagl., of common occurrence in the open plains of Guatemala and Honduras, but not known to have been previously noticed so far north.

The following papers were read :—

1. NOTE ON THE SYSTEMATIC POSITION OF PLATACANTHOMYS LASIURUS. BY DR. W. PETERS, FOR. MEMB.

(Plate XX.)

Amongst the many interesting objects which have come under my observation in the British Museum through the kindness of my friends Prof. Owen, Dr. Gray and Dr. Günther, is a specimen of the curious Rodent shortly noticed by Mr. Blyth (Journ. A. S. B. xxviii. p. 289) under the name *Platacanthomys lasiurus*. The specimen in question is that exhibited by Mr. Sclater at a Meeting of this Society in 1860\*, and subsequently presented by him to the British Museum.

It has always been difficult to me and other workers on the Mammals to understand how a Rodent with only three molars in each jaw could be referred to the *Myoxina*; and I was therefore very anxious to examine this very interesting form. But the results of my observations will show that *Platacanthomys* does not belong to the Dormice, but appertains strictly to the Murine family of Rodents, being nearly allied in many respects to *Phlæomys* and *Meriones*.

The generic characters of *Platacanthomys* may stand as follows :—

\* See P. Z. S. 1860, p. 260.